

SAC 9988
Copy of 6

8 November 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Emergency Equipment for Pilots

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1. A few weeks ago [redacted] submitted a proposed design change for quick separation of the pilot from his seat pack. In reality, this is not a problem when one considers the fact that all of his emergency oxygen systems and survival equipment are in the seat pack which thus becomes an integral part of his personal and protective gear. Their idea came about through their decision that the seat pack was too heavy and bulky and might hinder escape.

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2. Historically, [redacted] and I wanted to use several thicknesses of foam rubber and omit all survival gear. Then came the howls of protest and I think everyone recalls the fact that the pilots themselves selected and incorporated in their own seat packs innumerable items of excessive weight which also constitute the excessive bulk. Now, instead of getting rid of this excess, the desire to add on another entire system.

3. Their idea was submitted to the designer but it does not work in actual construction. It presents several problems, chiefly that if incorporated as they suggest, the disconnect would also seal off their emergency oxygen and cause real trouble.

4. Personally, we feel that a return to the original idea would give them greater comfort on long missions and would make the pack thin, light and no problem to release. This will not happen, however, because of the pilot attitude to masses of survival gear.

5. We have not abandoned the basic general idea of quicker separation, but a new design and new approach to it will have to be studied. The designer has no idea at this moment when he will be able to present us with a feasible solution. If one is developed, we will certainly modify the present system at once.

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[redacted]

Lt. Col., USAF (MC)

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